



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit : 3732

Appl. No. : 10/659,302

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : September 11, 2003

Confirmation No. : 3567

For : ROD FIXING APPARATUS FOR VERTEBRA CONNECTING
MEMBER

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 12, 2003, Applicants hereby submit a copy of a European Search Report dated October 25, 2005, with respect to patent family member European Patent Application No. EP 03 02 0808.6, in which the following documents were cited:

European Patent Publication No. EP 0 535 623, together with patent family members U.S. Patent No. 5,346,493 and U.S. Patent No. 5,257,993;

European Patent Publication No. EP 0 384 001, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,024,213;

U.S. Patent No. 6,077,262;

German Patent Publication No. DE 41 10 002, together with an English language abstract of the same;

International Patent Publication No. WO 01/91656; and

European Patent Publication No. EP 1 192 911, together with patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0040223.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the European Examiner, are set forth in the European Search Report.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patents and the U.S. patent application publication are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the above-noted documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

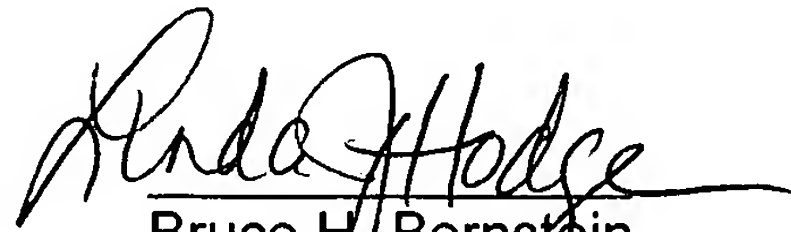
Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned

authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

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November 18, 2005
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